

THE TRADITION

Monthly Newsletter of the Ventura County Central Service Office Inc.



Serving: Agoura Hills, Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Simi Valley, Moorpark, Camarillo, El Rio, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Ojai, Santa Paula, Fillmore

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'A regular, spirited Alcoholics Anonymous meeting'

In February 2021, John and Tommy O., who got sober while incarcerated in New York State prisons, started a virtual meeting they called Unfinished Business, using the District 500, Area 47, virtual platform account. The attendees were people who had formerly been incarcerated and A.A.'s, many on the International Corrections Committee, who carry the message "behind the walls."

"Matt came onto the [International Corrections Committee] meeting and said in a private chat, 'Do you mind if we join you?'" John says. "And he explained what he meant — hooking up the guys on the inside. I trusted Matt and I could tell he was the guy who was going the extra mile. So, the next thing you know, Unfinished Business had a room full of guys from the inside [Allen Oakwood]. Those numbers kept growing, and by April we decided to turn the meeting over to them to chair, although we continue to host it from District 500."

Today, there are three weekly virtual meetings at Allen Oakwood — a Big Book study group provided by Josh A. of Oklahoma, another meeting where inside members are

12, 12 & 12

Step 9

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Tradition 9 (short form)

A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Concept 9 (short form)

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

The Tradition needs your AA related:

Stories, Writings, Poems

Artwork, Jokes, Quips

History, Trivia

News, Events

connected to (but cannot share at) a meeting in Ukraine — part of Matt’s idea to “find ways that are creative and bring some added dimensions” to virtual meetings at Allen Oakwood — and the Unfinished Business meeting. Virtual A.A. meetings at Allen Oakwood are held in a dedicated mental health building in one of four classrooms with television screens mounted on the wall. Each room holds 25 to 30 people. The meetings arrive via a laptop hooked up to the television monitors with an HDMI cable. On a recent Tuesday evening when the Unfinished Business meeting began at 6:30 p.m., there were about 15 inside members and 20 “outside” A.A.’s from all over North America: New York, New Jersey, Florida, Washington State, Vancouver, Canada, California, Texas, and Ohio — most of them doing service as members of the International Corrections Committee. After a reading of the Preamble and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and the “Detroit prayer,” the meeting was led by inside member Rex, who chose the topic: “How important are the Twelve Steps to your sobriety?” He called on members whose names he picked out of a hat, who can either share or pass.

“It’s pretty much a regular, spirited Alcoholics Anonymous meeting,” says John. “We stick to the primary purpose. We don’t overcomplicate it.” John sees the meeting as “a powerful two-way street. Most of the outside guys we bring did serious time. Ten guys with 250 years of incarceration between them. They’re seeing the guys [inside Allen Oakwood] all wearing the same color and sitting there in a prison program room. And they know they don’t want to go back there. And the guys on the inside, they look and listen to these guys who they know have done serious time, and they realize, if they can do it, we can, too.”

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From the Summer ’23 Edition of GSO’s quarterly newsletter Box 4-5-9 which includes:

- information about A.A. service
- news about literature
- a calendar of upcoming events
- sharing from groups and service committees
- sharing from individual A.A. members in the U.S./Canada

Read the full newsletter - [HERE](#)

Districts, Area & AAWS Contacts

Ventura County Central Office serves the following Districts within Area 93

Gold Coast District

District 9: Oxnard, Point Mugu & Port Hueneme

District 12: Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark
& Santa Paula

P.O. Box 132, Camarillo, CA 93011

District 24

Simi Valley

P.O. Box 843

Simi Valley, CA 93065

District 13

Meiners Oaks, Ojai & Ventura

P.O. Box 166, Ventura, CA 93003

<https://www.aad13.org>

District 28

Agoura, Westlake Village,
Thousand Oaks, & Newbury Park

P.O. Box 3432,

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

Area 93

606 Alamo Pintado #3,
PMB #140

Solvang, CA 93463

<https://area93.org>

*Sign up for the
Area 93 newsletter

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services - AAWS

Member Services Line (212) 870-3023

P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

<https://www.aa.org>

News, Events & Service Opportunities

Let's stay
connected

If you have any A.A. related news, events or meeting updates, please contact Central Office: [805-389-1444](tel:805-389-1444), vcaaco@verizon.net

SBAA CONVENTION

VETERANS' MEMORIAL BUILDING

OCTOBER 13-15, 2023 SANTA BARBARA, CA

Registration: <https://sbaaconvention.net/>
 General Information: Angela P. (805) 636-2432
 Registration Badges required at all meetings

SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)	ALL INCLUSIVE TICKET
Friday, Oct 13th PM Speaker Meeting (Patt O. - Fullerton, CA)	✦ Dinner Friday & Saturday (Beverages not included) ✦ Sunday Continental Breakfast ✦ Ice Cream Social ✦ Access to All AA events
Saturday, Oct 14th 10:00 AM H&I Speaker Meeting (Chris W, Ventura, CA) PM Speaker Meeting (Jennifer H-K. - Texas)	5K FUN RUN (Online preregistration required) Saturday October 14th
Sunday, Oct 15th AM Closing Meeting and Sobriety Countdown (Tom P, Laguna Beach, CA)	

Santa Barbara Convention!! Oct 13 - 15



Event Page - [HERE](#)

AA GRAPEVINE

WRITING WORKSHOP

Hosted by the Area 93 Grapevine Committee

Saturday, September 30
10:00 AM—2:00 PM (Pacific Daylight Time)

A call for stories, jokes, photos and art

NEW LOGIN NUMBER:
ID: 859 8947 3462
Passcode: Grapevine

Use this new Zoom ID for the workshop.
See you soon!

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Image © AA Grapevine, Inc., from the story 'On the Front Lines', August 2022 issue

Speakers!

- Jon W., Senior Editor, AA Grapevine, New York City
- Jeffrey H., DCM, Area 93, District 07, Lancaster, CA (Author of 'On the Front Lines', Grapevine, Aug 2022)
- Ramon C., La Viña spokesperson, District 02

Translation will be provided

Start a brand-new story or bring a story in progress.

If you would like to share your story at the workshop for feedback, please contact Bonnie before the workshop to be put on the agenda:

grapevine@area93.org
 or call 805-550-8081

More & More Events Coming up!



Event Page - [HERE](#)



Event Page - [HERE](#)



Event Page - [HERE](#)



Speaker CD and Tape Project



Central office has been donated a large collection of speaker tapes (yes *actual tapes!*) and CDs. Looking for volunteers to listen to speakers and write a brief synopsis. Once completed we will look into digitizing.

If you're able to be of service, call Central office @ [805-389-1444](tel:805-389-1444)



Add Your Name to the
VC Central Office 12-Step List!!

BE THERE FOR THE STILL SICK & SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC

Ventura County Central Office is creating a new list of names to contact when someone who is having a problem with alcohol calls. Be there to talk on the phone, go to a meeting, connect at a coffee shop, & share your experience strength and hope.

This is a vital part of our recovery program.

“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics.” (A.A. p. 89)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Matthew @ (805) 389-1444 or vcaaco@verizon.net

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

Volunteers Needed for the Phone Line

It's for you!

Volunteer for a once a month shift to answer the Ventura County Alcoholics Anonymous Phone Line. Calls are forwarded to your cell phone. Answer the phone from home, in-town, out-of-town, anywhere!

To Volunteer, Call the Office at 805-389-1444



About A.A.

ORIGIN OF THE SERENITY PRAYER: A BRIEF SUMMARY

*God grant me the **serenity** to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can, and **wisdom** to know the difference.*

"This prayer has been credited to almost every theologian, philosopher and saint known to man. It was actually written around 1932 by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of the Union Theological Seminary in New York City, as the ending to a longer prayer. In 1934, the doctor's friend and neighbor, Dr. Howard Robbins, asked permission to use this part of the longer prayer in a compilation he was making at the time. It was published in that year in Dr. Robbin's book of prayers.

The prayer came to the attention of an early member of A.A. in 1940. He read it in an obituary in the New York Herald Tribune. He liked it so much he brought it to G.S.O., then on Vesey Street, for Bill W. to read. When Bill and the staff read the little prayer they felt that it particularly suited the needs of A.A. Cards were printed and passed around. Thus has this simple little prayer become a part of the A.A. literature. " (From the July, 1961 A.A. Exchange Bulletin)

THE SERENITY PRAYER

"There's nothing new under the sun? Well, perhaps there is the area of material things. Telstar and moon probes are new. As a matter of fact, so is A.A., which celebrated a young twenty-ninth birthday this year. But in the spiritual life, when we make a discovery, we're usually waking up to an old truth.

When the Grapevine last reported on the origin of the Serenity Prayer (January, 1950, issue), we had traced it to Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, who set it down in 1932 in very much the form given above. Dr. Niebuhr said at the time that he thought it might have been spooking around for years, even centuries...

Now an alert A.A. has sent us a clipping from the Paris Herald Tribune of an article written by its Koblenz (West Germany) correspondent: "In the rather dreary hall of a converted hotel, overlooking the Rhine at Koblenz, framed by the flags of Prussian regiments rescued from the Tannenberg memorial, is a tablet inscribed with the following words: 'God give me the detachment to accept those things I cannot alter; the courage to alter those things which I can alter; and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.' These words (are) by Friedrich Otenger, and evangelical pietist of the eighteenth century...'

We don't have the original German of the Koblenz tablet. And we have somewhere a printed card stating that the prayer is a 'soldier's prayer form the fourteenth century.' So there may be more news on the origins of it to write about in the future. But let us not get carried away by antiquarian research, it is the praying that is going to help me, an alcoholic." (From the November, 1964 A.A.Grapevine.)

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!!

Ventura County Intergroup's monthly newsletter is asking for your contribution.

Yes, you! We would love to publish your writings about:

- ◆ Your Story: Experience, Strength, & Hope in Recovery.
- ◆ One of the 12-Steps, 12-Traditions, or 12-Concepts.
- ◆ How your sponsor or sponsee contributes to your recovery.
- ◆ What it was like attending your first A.A. meeting.
- ◆ Your experience at an A.A. event: Round-up, Convention, NYE Dance, etc.
- ◆ A service commitment, your home group, first sober holiday, favorite line in the Big Book, and any other recovery related writing.

Suggestion for Main Article length: 400 - 600 words; *can be longer

Suggestion for Smaller Articles: 200 - 300 words

The Tradition is sent out via email to a list of subscribers, mainly people in A.A. in Ventura County, and published on the website, <https://aaventuracounty.org/>

****We also love jokes, quips, poems, artwork, trivia, event info, meeting updates, and A.A. history!!**

Send in Your Contributions Now!

Email: vcaaco@verizon.net Phone: 805-389-1444

A.A. Quip of the Month

Think...Think...Think.

A.A. Quote of the Month

“Love and tolerance of others is our code.” (A.A. p. 84)

Good Joke of the Month

How do you get a drunk up on the roof?

Tell him drinks are on the house.



BAD JOKE OF THE MONTH

AA romance.... the odds are good... but the goods are odd!



Meetings, Meetings, Meetings!

Check for weekly updates on local meetings - [HERE](#)

The Responsibility Statement

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous always to be there. And for that; *I am Responsible.*

Oh Yes! IT'S
FREE

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